

Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D.C. 20505

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24 DEC 1985

The Honorable Charles B. Rangel
Chairman
Select Committee on Narcotics
Abuse and Control
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This is in response to your letter of November 18, 1985, requesting this Agency to appear before the Select Committee on Narcotics Abuse and Control in closed session to discuss numerous matters concerning intelligence collection and analysis as it relates to the foreign illegal narcotics trade.

I would be most willing to have my specialists brief your Committee about current trends in the illegal foreign drug trade on a regional basis. I must, however, ask that you not request us to discuss our capabilities and activities to collect against the narcotics target, nor that we be asked to discuss particulars of requirements or details of our relationships with foreign intelligence services. Such information is extremely sensitive and cannot be revealed without revealing sources and methods information which does not pertain strictly to the illegal foreign narcotics trade.

As you know, the National Security Act of 1947, as amended, provides an explicit statutory scheme for the provision of intelligence-related information to Congress. In this regard, the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence serves as the focal point within the House for intelligence matters relating to the CIA. I believe that we have a sound relationship with that Committee that takes into account the oversight concerns of the Congress and the security concerns of the Executive Branch.

If the oversight process on such sensitive matters is to function effectively, I cannot respond routinely to congressional requests for information outside the normal

channels established by the National Security Act. I believe this is particularly the case where intelligence sources and methods are involved, as they are in this case. For these reasons, I hope you can appreciate my reluctance to discuss all the information you have requested.

I hope we might be able to satisfy your Committee's interests in the manner I have suggested. If this arrangement is acceptable to you, we will prepare for an initial meeting with your Committee at a mutually acceptable date. I will be happy to discuss this further if you desire.

Sincerely,

/s/ William J. Casey

William J. Casey
Director of Central Intelligence

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